

## Adventures with the DDC—Building a Depot The Magnificent Seven Make DDC History

By Jackie Noble, DDC Public Affairs Officer

With the establishment of DLA's 24th depot, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) is having a very unique experience. You might think that establishing a new depot is no big deal since DDC already has 23 other depots. But, this is not business as usual. Until now, depots were established from a pre-existing organization using existing

Division Chief, and his team were responsible for identifying and moving the 7,800 product lines forward to DDKS. The lines selected were done with DLA business rules of four demands per year. "We only want to place material at DDKS that is in high demand and keep the shelves replenished using surface shipments to avoid the high cost of air transportation."

The DDC headquarters team can frame the plan and lead the execution, however, the real test is with actual operations. Operationally, DDC needed trained distribution depot employees to help execute the plan.

Through a help call put out through a DLA Contingency Support Team (DCST) announcement, seven DDC depot employees voluntarily answered that call. These seven employees are

Ray Chapman, a Supply Technician from DDC's depot in Pearl Harbor, agrees. Hawaii is his paradise, but he takes the assignment as an opportunity to learn more about other cultures and serve his country. Eating in the Camp Arifjan mess hall with the troops just coming out of Iraq pulls at your heartstrings. In talking with one soldier about being in Kuwait, the soldier said to Ray, "Thank you for what you do."

"What more do you need to hear to know what you are doing is worthwhile?" asked Ray.

Terry Dobbs, a Warehouse Supervisor from Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA (DDSP) says he wasn't sure what he had really gotten himself into when he volunteered to fill in until the permanent positions are filled. But, when DDC's Sue Alpaugh was briefing the program to

his employees, he felt the need to sign up - something that he hadn't felt since his Air Force days. While his current DCST assignment of safety, security, and environmental is a bit out of his immediate field, his total background makes a good fit. Terry said, "We are making DDC history one step at a time. DDKS will make a huge difference to improving support to the CENTCOM theater."

Johnnie Akines and Christopher Newland, both employees of DDC's site in Gernersheim, Germany, have lots of worldwide experience, but Kuwait is a first for them too. Johnnie's background is with the DLA Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) and Chris is a former Sailor.

Both were asked to make a decision about volunteering very quickly. Johnnie and Chris were both excited to help out. Being at the Germany depot has provided them ample experience in working with foreign nationals and different customs.

Although, on a recent September Sunday in Kuwait, they were not to be found in their air conditioned tent but on an escort convoy to move 42 containers to the depot. Working with a third



*From the desert sands. The Magnificent Seven helped to establish Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia (DDKS).*

infrastructure and transferring personnel in place from one organization to another. Not so with Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait (DDKS).

DDKS literally "rose from the desert sands" in just under three months. Through a DDC contract with the Public Warehousing Company in Kuwait, a piece of desert has come to life with six large warehouses and a container storage area. DDKS will be home to approximately 7,800 highly demanded lines of items valued at more than \$105 million. This pre-positioned material in Kuwait will provide a \$163 million cost avoidance in air transportation costs and significantly reduce customer wait time.

The old saying that it "takes a village to raise a child" also applies to a depot. Working closely with DLA headquarters, DDC staff from every function pulled together to make this depot possible. From the "imageers" in DDC's J-5 Strategic Plans office, to the "reality makers" in the DDC J-3/J-4 Logistics Operations division, to the support staff of DDC J-8 Financial Operations, DDC J-6 Information Technology, and DDC Support Services contract specialists, it was a fast-paced effort.

CAPT (Sel) Dan Palko, SC, USN, and Scott Rosbaugh of the Strategic Plans directorate have been key architects of the plan. Rosbaugh shared, "It was essential that we get as close to the Warfighter as possible to make their jobs easier. CENTCOM (U.S. Central Command) and customer encouragement were key to making this depot stand up. Without their support, we could not have succeeded with DDKS."

Tony DeVito, DDC Supply Management

making history, blazing a new trail that DDC has never before experienced.

When this group, humorously named the "Magnificent Seven," came together as the DCST Kuwait Team, they came from different depots, different skill sets, and didn't know each other at all. While they may have had dreams of "seeing the world" by volunteering, little did they know that they would wake up in Kuwait . . . in a tent.

After they initially volunteered, they had to go to Ft. Bliss, TX, for their indoctrination, shots, physical exams (to include dental), gas mask training, and to be issued their military clothing items. It was quickly obvious that this experience was going to be unlike any other they had known.

Valerie Hall, Reports Control Clerk at Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC), with a son who served in Iraq with the 1st Armored Division, volunteered because she wanted to do "something for the troops." She thought she could make a bigger contribution with a DCST. Her son had shared some of his experiences in Iraq and she wanted to do anything she could to make the next soldier's experience a bit easier or safer.

Who would have thought that Valerie, a grandmother, would be one of only four women with several hundred men sleeping in a warehouse bunk for a night? Who would have thought she would be sleeping in an air-conditioned tent at Camp Arifjan? Certainly not Valerie. "This experience is nothing I could have ever imagined. The opportunity to directly support the troops and talk to them is so rewarding, far outweighing any of the temporary comfort hardships."

**Want to volunteer? See page 29 for details. The Magnificent Seven.**



Top row: Valerie Hall from DDJC and Ray Chapman from DDPH. Middle row: Terry Dobbs from DDSP, Wayne Galloway from DDSP and Johnnie Akines from DDDE Bottom row: Christopher Newland from DDDE and Chuck Personius from DDSP.

party logistics partner, processing through customs and Kuwaiti security isn't your everyday transportation action. This was their third convoy, but for DDKS it will become routine. After getting about six hours of sleep, they were eagerly back at work to help with the processing. Johnnie said "It went well. We are learning as we go and are establishing the procedures and practices so that when the permanent employees arrive, we will have laid the foundation for them to build on."

Chuck Personneus of DDSP and former Marine finds the assignment as something he was "meant to do, having served in the first Gulf War."

LTC Clay Newton, USA, DDC J-5 Strategic Planner, has also served with the Magnificent Seven. "The volunteers have been amazing. They stepped out of their areas of expertise, tackling challenges outside their skills sets, and have performed exceptionally well. Each day at DDKS brings new challenges—both expected and unexpected. These volunteers know they are doing work that makes a difference and that they are making DDC history at the same time."

In regards to being in Kuwait, a popular theme resonates from the employees' stories. They all say that they knew tent living was a possibility but they weren't really expecting that reality. Even with the absence of familiar comforts, things are looking up with the arrival of the incoming DDKS Commander, COL Gloria Blake, USA. Her first action was to get the group moved out of Camp Arifjan and into the local Hilton – with a swimming pool and beach.

Wayne Galloway, a Warehouse Supervisor from DDSP, is the acting DDKS Deputy Commander. He's used to challenges from tackling the huge workload at DDSP and working new initiatives, so he thought DDKS would be a new challenge. Learning to work through a foreign third party logistics provider and overcoming cultural differences have really tested his leadership skills. While tent living is also not his preference, he offered that work keeps him so busy that he is only there to sleep, but will certainly enjoy the Hilton. **Newland from DDDE and Chuck**

## DDC Deactivates Forward Stocking Site in Bahrain

*By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs*

After nearly two years of providing front-line support to the Warfighter, the Defense Distribution Center (DDC) closed the distribution operation in Bahrain known as DDZZ.

The materiel and distribution function from DDZZ was transferred to the newly-activated Defense Distribution Depot Kuwait, Southwest Asia (DDKS), a permanent and more robust operation supporting military customers in the Middle East.

DDZZ was established in December 2002 to support American and Coalition Forces fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

DDZZ stocked only 35 items—all heavy construction material like lumber, fencing, barbed wire and bastions—used mainly for force protection. By shipping these cumbersome and heavy items by sea to DDZZ in 2002, DLA and DDC were able to avoid more than \$50 million dollars in air transportation costs. Also, customer wait time was dramatically reduced by having the materiel pre-stocked close to the Warfighter.

Harry Tostado, a DDZZ supervisor who was deployed from the Tracy, CA location of Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, CA (DDJC), was responsible for closing down operations at DDZZ with the help of mission partners Danish Camp Supply, the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's 831st, the Navy Regional Contracting Center, Mapping



*Although DDZZ only carried 35 items, more than 5,000 containers of materiel were received during the two years of operation. Materiel was stored by single national stock numbers in 20-foot seavan containers.*

Supply Center Philadelphia, and personnel from DDKS led by COL Gloria Blake, USA, DDKS Commander.

Tostado said that being the last man out the door at DDZZ was an emotional experience. "As I turned out the lights and pulled the door closed for the last time, so

many memories went through my mind. I recalled the images I saw in 'Tent City' at Camp Arifjan and Camp Doha—the Warfighters were loaded with backpacks and gear in the sweltering heat and sandstorms. Despite the conditions, there were no complaints to be heard.

I remembered the 'thank you' from a Lieutenant in Iraq who was grateful for the shipment of lumber just received from

*"As I turned out the lights and pulled the door closed for the last time, so many memories went through my mind. I recalled the images I saw in 'Tent City' at Camp Arifjan and Camp Doha—the Warfighters were loaded with backpacks and gear in the sweltering heat and sandstorms. Despite the conditions, there were no complaints to be heard. I remembered the 'thank you' from a Lieutenant in Iraq who was grateful for the shipment of lumber just received from us so they could build and sustain a better quality of life."*

*—DDZZ Supervisor Harry Tostado who was deployed from DDJC*

Support Office - Bahrain, Bahrain Port Operations, Class IV (heavy construction equipment) item managers from Defense

us so they could build and sustain a better quality of life. I'll never forget the dedication of my crew and the friendships made in

**Below is a list of personnel deployed to DDZZ to support DDC's first combat theater distribution platform. Thanks for a job well done!**

*Donald Abrams, DDPW  
Walter Bostdorf, DDC  
Roberta Campbell, DDOO  
Richard Chabot, DDC  
Fred Clary, DDJC  
Delta Clemmons, DDC  
Terry Day, DDOO  
Wilbur Dukes, DDPW  
LTC (P) Robert Guarino, USA, DDC  
John Hankins, DDDE  
Donald Hernandez, DDJC*

*Charles Holder, DDRT  
Richard Johnson, DDC  
Col Bernard LeVan, USAR, DDC  
Gilberto Martinez, DDCT  
Linda Norman, DDC  
CAPT (Sel) Dan Palko, SC, USN, DDC  
Hector Segarra, DDSP  
Darrell Smith, DDJC  
Greg Stephens, DDDE  
Harry Tostado, DDJC*